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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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04330

MICHAEL F. KELLY
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW, EMT-P
DIRECTOR

Board of EMS Meeting
Maine EMS Conference Room
November 4, 1998
MINUTES

Members Present: J. Fields (Chair), J. McKenny (Chair-Elect), L. Bouchard, R. Doughty, W. Dunwoody, S. Leach, J. Defillip, C. Little, S. Hayes, C. Pillsbury, P. DiPietrantonio, G. Murray, P. Stevens, W. Werts, R. Chagrasulis

Regional Coordinators: J. LeBrun, D. Carroll, R. Bumps, J. Caron

Staff: J. Bradshaw, D. Corning, D. White, W. Montejo

1. Minutes

MOTION: *To approve the minutes of the October 7, 1998, Board meeting as distributed (Dunwoody; second by Little). Carried.*

2. Old Business

A. Reengineering Service Licenses.

J. Bradshaw reported that the Operations Team held a joint meeting with the Education Committee and did not get to this item. Consensus was to table this item until the December Board meeting.

B. Unfinished Business

J. Fields reported that the EMS/TC meeting has again been delayed. Jay will be trying to set up a meeting with Dick Willis for later this month.

John also reported that he had sent a letter to the Education Committee asking them to review the air ambulance protocols with regard to the educational components. Paul Marcolini, who is also a LifeFlight of Maine employee will be compiling a summary of areas that represent a new treatment or technique for paramedics and the training provided by LOM.

Dr. Chagrasulis indicated that the MDPB also wants to review the protocols and training to see how the issues they (the MDPB) raised were addressed.

C. Other

None at this time

3. New Business

A. Ops Team/Committee Action Items

As previously mentioned, the Ops Team held a joint meeting with the Education Committee. There was a presentation on distance learning presented by _____ from CMTC. Other topics discussed included the status of the First Responder modifications and the proposed enhanced EMT-I program. Details are included in the Education Committee minutes.

Work continues on an EMS Day at the Legislature on January 21, 1999, from 8:00 am to noon in the Hall of Flags.

John asked if work on the strategic plan was still on track for a report back to the Board next spring. Jay was optimistic that this was still possible. The Ops Team is scheduled to work on goals 3 & 4 at their December meeting.

B. Investigations Committee Action Items

--> *get details of Shawn Cahill investigation from Drexell* <--

J. Fields asked about the case load of active investigations. D. White estimated that there are 20-30 cases at various stages. S. Hayes added that part of the backlog is due to the lack of staff time available for investigations.

Extensive discussion ensued about the investigation process, the role of the regions, and the need for a matrix that could help identify which types of matters would be handled by the various EMS levels (i.e. services, regions, MEMS staff, and Board). Dr. Chagrasulis stated that this topic has also been discussed as part of the credentialing process and is awaiting input from the AGs office.

As a result of this discussion, consensus of the Board was to form a Task Force to review the investigation process and report back to the Board. As chairman, J. Fields will make appointments to the Task Force to include as a minimum: a regional coordinator, a regional medical director, Dr. Chagrasulis, Investigation Committee members, and MEMS staff.

C. Waiver Request - LifeFlight of Maine

Withdrawn by request of LOM to allow more adequate time for LOM and MEMS staff to discuss this matter further.

D. Other

J. Fields asked about what efforts were being made to assure EMS status with regard to Y2K (Year 2000) compliance. He explained that some manufacturers have learned that ICs in some devices may not be able to continue operation on January 1, 2000, because it will see the date only as '00'. B. Dunwoody explained that there is a considerable list of manufacturers and their Y2K status on the Maine Ambulance Association web site. There is a link to the MAA site from the EMS web page. Other suggestions included using the Journal of Maine EMS to notify personnel and services about this issue.

4. Staff Report

A. Activities

J. Bradshaw reported that Missi Plaisted has received a promotion to Accountant 1 at DPS Headquarters and will be leaving MEMS on November 13. Missi has been with MEMS for 4 years as an Administrative Assistant. The process has been started to get a replacement as soon as possible.

Jay also reported on highlights from the National Association of State EMS Directors (NASEMSD) Conference that was held last week in Asheville, NC. Topics included a meeting with Mary Fran Hazinski, chair of the American Heart Association Emergency Cardiovascular Committee regarding the AHA position and plans for Public Access to Defibrillation. Ms. Hazinski stated that it is AHA's goal to work with the EMS system to train a target audience and place AEDs in locations where there is a higher likelihood of encountering a cardiac arrest. AHA has prepared a guide to model legislation that includes working with state, regional, and local EMS organizations. The next challenge for both AHA and EMS is for the AHA Affiliate offices to adopt this same position.

Jay also had copies available of the latest Office of Inspector General (OIG) report with regard to ambulance restocking. This latest opinion is similar to one that was issued earlier this year. The OIG summarized that while it may be a technical violation for hospitals to be restocking ambulances, they did not intent to pursue action against facilities who were doing so in a manner consistent with the examples given in these opinions.

Jay also reported that progress on the HCFA Negotiated Rulemaking appears to have been delayed, again. The original plan was to have a panel identified and in place by this time; however, there has been considerable interest expressed in the composition of this panel. At this time it appears that there will be representatives of fire chiefs, firefighters, the American Ambulance Association, NASEMSD, NAEMT and 4 or 5 other groups. Interestingly, requests from both ACEP and NASEMSP have been rejected. Efforts continue to have these physician groups represented at the table. Once HCFA has settled on its recommendation, the composition will have to be published in the Federal Register and be available for comment for 30 days.

Jay was elected Secretary of NASEMSD for the coming year and hopes to encourage the Association to have its annual convention in Portland in 2002.

B. MDPB

Dr. Chagrasulis reported that the MDPB has almost completed the preliminary draft of the EMS protocol revisions. She expects that following the November meeting, these will be printed and distributed to each of the regions for further distribution and comment. The MDPB will be having an open forum at the Samoset Conference on Saturday, November 14. There will be no MDPB meeting in December, but there will likely be an all day retreat in January.

She also distributed copies of the medical director's meeting that was held in conjunction with the NASEMSD Conference. Many of the same issues that Maine is working on are also current topics in other states. Information will be forthcoming from other states on topics such as credentialing/decredentialing, medication enhanced intubation, etc. There were 14 state medical directors at that meeting.

C. Other

Jay reminded members about the New England Council for EMS annual conference that will be in Newport, RI, on November 23, 24. This year's topic is EMS Planning for Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction.

MEMS will be hosting Trauma Registry training the week of November 16. This training is for both new and existing trauma registry software users and is possible because of a funding MEMS received from an EMS-C Partnership Grant.

5. Other

Governor King has appointed Debra Dodge, RN, from Goodall Hospital in Sanford to represent emergency nurses. There is still a vacancy for a second consumer representative.

John reminded members that there will once again be an EMS Town Meeting at the Samoset Conference on Friday, November 13, at 7:00 pm. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Meeting adjourned 10:15 am.